THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per the guidelines of the scheme, local bodies are expected to develop institutional arrangements for providing cooked/pre-cooked food within a period of two years from the date of commencement of the programme in the local areas. However, in the interim period, as a prelude to the provision of cooked/pre-cooked food in the schools, food grains at the rate of 3 Kgs. per student per month may be distributed to all children of classes I to V subject to a minimum attendance of 80 per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir. Currently, Gujarat, Kerala, Chhattisgarh (Tribal Blocks,) Madhya Pradesh (Tribal Blocks,), Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Lakshadweep are distributing cooked meals. In Delhi, processed food is being distributed. Other States/ UTs are still continuing with distribution of food-grains as they are not able to mobilise resources due to financial constraints. This issue has been taken with the State Governments concerned.

(c) During July to September 1998, the supply of food-grains by FCI had been temporarily suspended in States.UTs due to problems relating to reconciliation of lifting figures and non-release of funds to FCI which was subsequently restored.

Sanskrit Speaking course in Universities

2040. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.G.C. has sanctioned grant-in-aid to universities to start Sanskrit Speaking Course;

(b) if so, the names of Universities which have started the above course;

(c) the names of Universities which have not started the above course and the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Universities are to have academic collaboration with Sanskrit Bharati, New Delhi, for identifying teachers and conducting the above course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has decided to set up Simple Sanskrit

Speaking Centres in selected Universities and Colleges in the country. Under the Scheme, UGC received proposals from 929 institutions, out of which the proposals of 444 institutions, which are eligible to receive grants, have been approved. A statement indicating the names of these institutions is enclosed as Annexure. [*See* Appendix 194, Annexure No. 17]

(d) No, Sir.

Staff in Modern Indian Languages Sections, Delhi University

2041. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Modern Indian Languages Section in Delhi University do not have full staff ?

(b) the reasons for which the post of professor of Telugu has not been filled ;

(c) whether admissions for M.A. in Telugu have not been done for the last three years ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the neglect of Telugu language ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on theTable of the House.

Development of Rural Women in Jharkhand

2042. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are implementing Rural Women Development and Empowerment Scheme in Jharkhand ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI) SUMITRA MAHAJAN : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.